

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are now pending in the application. By this response, Applicant has elected Group III, Claims 18-22 and 27-32 with traverse. Applicant has also amended independent Claim 10 to include the limitations of dependent Claim 16, such that independent Claim 10 now includes the limitations of resecting a second bone portion relative to a first resected portion. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claim 10, along with its corresponding dependent claims should also be grouped with Group III, since the above-identified amendment has eliminated the combination/sub-combination issue raised by the Examiner.

The Examiner is also requested to reconsider the Restriction Requirement with regard to Group I, since it appears that the subject matter defined within Group I and Group III with amended Group II are similar. Consequently, the field of search for each group should be essentially coextensive. Thus, the burden on the Examiner will not be significant to maintain each group of claims in this application.


Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding the election, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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